

In the Claims

Please replace original claims with like numbered amended claims set forth below. A marked up copy of the amended claims is submitted herewith as Attachment A.

- Sub 4, 13. (Once amended) A process for fabricating a magnetic media hard disk comprising:
2 fabricating a magnetic media layer upon a surface material of a substrate;
3 fabricating a diamond-like carbon (DLC) layer upon said magnetic layer by:
4 fabricating an initial thickness DLC layer portion upon said magnetic layer
5 utilizing a relatively low ion carbon beam energy;
6 fabricating a subsequent thickness DLC layer portion upon said initial thickness
7 DLC layer portion utilizing a relatively high carbon ion beam energy.

16. (Once amended) A process for fabricating a magnetic media hard disk as described in
claim 13, including fabricating an intermediate thickness DLC layer portion between said initial
DLC layer portion and said subsequent DLC layer portion, wherein said intermediate thickness
DLC layer portion is fabricated utilizing a relatively mid-range carbon ion beam energy between
said relatively low carbon ion beam energy and said relatively high carbon ion beam energy.

22. (Once amended) A method for fabricating a magnetic media hard disk comprising:
2 fabricating a magnetic material layer upon a material surface of a substrate;
3 fabricating a diamond-like carbon (DLC) layer upon said magnetic layer, wherein said
4 DLC layer is fabricated by:
5 depositing carbon ion species upon said magnetic layer utilizing a relatively low
6 carbon ion beam energy of from approximately 10 eV to approximately 20 eV, to deposit an
7 initial DLC layer thickness;
8 subsequently increasing the carbon ion beam energy level as the thickness of said
9 DLC layer increases due to deposition of carbon ion species within said DLC layer, such that
10 higher energy carbon ion beam species become implanted within said DLC layer thickness.